

REMARKS

Attorney for applicants has carefully reviewed the outstanding Office Action on the above-referenced application. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 3-18, and canceled Claim 2.

The Examiner suggested amending the abstract. In such circumstances, applicants' attorney has deleted the abstract and submitted a new abstract in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Examiner in the Office Action dated December 19, 2007.

Applicants' attorney is pleased to note that, at page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claim 3 contains allowable subject matter. Original Claim 3 is a multiple dependent claim, which depends from either Claim 1 or Claims 1 and 2. By the foregoing amendments, Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features recited in its base claim (i.e., Claim 1). In amending Claim 3, editorial changes have been made to the original claim language in order to overcome the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection of the claims. More particularly, applicants' attorney has clarified that the transverse supports in Claim 1, line 7 are the same transverse supports previously recited in Claim 1. In the foregoing circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 4-18 have been objected to by the Examiner. Claims 4-18 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections so as to now depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended independent Claim 3. In such circumstances, it is

believed that Claims 4-18 are also in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the features recited in original Claims 2 and 3. In amending Claim 1, editorial changes have been made to the original claim language in order to overcome the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection of the claims. More particularly, applicants' attorney has clarified that the transverse supports in Claim 1, line 7 are the same transverse supports previously recited in Claim 1. Because the Office Action indicates that original Claim 3 contains allowable subject matter, applicants' attorney respectfully submits that amended Claim 1, which includes the features recited in original Claims 2 and 3, recites allowable subject matter. In the foregoing circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Please note that applicants' attorney has not underlined the phrase "characterized in that" when amending the claims. Rather, the phrase "characterized in that" was underlined in the original claims. Applicants' attorney has deleted the phrase "characterized in that" in the amended claims.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf German reference No. 299 22 976 in view of Wolf German reference No. 0,594,939. These claim rejections have been obviated by the cancellation herein of Claim 2 and the amendments herein to Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants' attorney respectfully requests reexamination and allowance of pending Claims 1 and 3, and examination and allowance of Claims 4-18. If such action cannot be taken, the Examiner

Appln. No. 10/526,347
Amendment dated June 19, 2008
Reply to Office Action mailed December 19, 2007

is cordially invited to place a telephone call to applicants' attorney in order that any outstanding issue may be resolved without the issuance of a further Office Action.

Enclosed is a Petition for a three-month extension of time to and including June 19, 2008, for which a \$1,050 fee is due. The Petition authorizes the Examiner to charge this \$1,050 fee to Deposit Account No. 503571. If there are any additional fees due as a result of this Amendment, including extension and petition fees, the Examiner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 503571.

Respectfully Submitted,

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